

LEPIDOPTERA IN IRELAND

By the Rev. DAVID AGASSIZ*

In the summer of 1981 my family and I spent our holiday in Ireland: a week in the Burren of Co. Clare, followed by a week each in Tralee, Co. Kerry and Roche's Point, Co. Cork. It was not primarily an entomological trip, but several specimens were taken which seem worth recording. Four years previously I had followed the same tracks spending a week collecting in the Burren with Barry Goater & Dr. John Langmaid, after which I stayed for two weeks at Roche's Point with my family. Records made then have not been published so they are included now. In both visits to the Burren the base was a caravan on Fanore Strand. The precise dates were for the Burren: 6 - 12 August 1977 and 24 - 31 July 1981; for Tralee: 1 - 6 August 1981 and for Roche's Point: 13 - 29 August 1977 and 7 - 13 August 1981.

For Co. Clare I include records of species which are not included by Bradley & Pelham-Clinton (1967), though there may well be other records, published or unpublished. Fanore is abbreviated F., other localities are specified. For one species, *Dichomeris marginella* Fabr. taken at Black Head, 11-vii-77 I have not traced any previous Irish record. Other species are: *Nemophora minimella* D. & S., F. '77, Murroogh & Caher River '81; *Rhigognostis annulatella* Curt., F. 25-vii-81; *Agonopterix subpropinquella* Stt., F. bred '81; *Epagoge grotiana* Fabr., Rinnamona '77; *Olethreutes schulziana* Fabr., Rinnamona '77; *Cydia gallicana* Guen., Caher River 30-vii-81; *Scoparia subfusca* Haw., F. '77 & '81 + Black Head '77; *Mecyna asinalis* Hübn., Ballyvaughan & Black Head '77; *Perizoma alchemillata* Linn., F. '81; *Eilema griseola* Hübn., Ballyvaughan '77; *Axyليا putris* Linn., Ballyvaughan '77 & F. '81; *Graphiphora augur* Fabr., F. 26-vii-81; *Mythinna pallens* Linn., F. '77 & '81; *Mesologia furuncula* D. & S., F. & Black Head '77; *Hoplodrina alsines* Brahm, Black Head '77 & F. '81 and *Abrostola trigemina* Werneb., F. '81.

In addition, on both visits *Paraswammerdamia spiniella* Hübn. was recorded and I feel it must be this Blackthorn-feeding species rather than the Birch-feeding *Swammerdamia caesiella* Hübn. which was intended by Bradley & Pelham-Clinton when they recorded the latter.

For the other localities I am including only such vice-county records as are not given by Beirne (1941), these are also supplementary to those I published previously (Agassiz, 1977).

Records from North Kerry (vc. H2), Tralee: *Psychoides filicivora* Meyr.; *Phyllonorycter nigrescentella* Logan — mines; *Plutella porrectella* Linn.; *Coleophora benanderi* Kanerva; *Eulamprotes atrella* D. & S.; *Blastobasis lignea* Wals.; *Cnephasia conspersana* Dougl.; *C. stephensiana* Doubl.; *Gypsonoma dealbana* Fröhl.; and *Eurhodope advenella* Zinck.. Also from Kerry Head *Lobesia littoralis* Humph.

*10, High View Avenue, Grays, Essex.

& Westw. and from the Slieve Mish Mountains: *Digitivalva pulicariae* Klim. and *Epinotia mercuriana* Fröl.

Records from East Cork (vc. H5). Two species are not included in Beirne's list so these may be the first Irish records: *Monopis imella* Hübn., Roche's Point 9-vii-81 and *Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana* Ratz. Rostellan 20-viii-77. Other species; all from Roche's Point: *Stigmella aurella* Fabr. '77 & '81; *Phyllonorycter messaniella* Zell. mines '81; *P. rajella* Linn. '81; *Digitivalva pulicariae* Klim. '77 & '81; *Schreckensteinia festaliella* Hübn. '81; *Coleophora discordella* Zell. '77 & '81; *C. trochillella* Dup. '77; *C. benanderi* Kanerva '81; *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* Stt. '77 & '81; *Agonopterix ulicetella* Stt. '77; *A. nervosa* Haw. '81; *Caryocolum blandella* Dougl. '77; *Aproaerema anthyllidella* Hübn. bred '81; *Acompsia cinerella* Cl. '81; *Anarsia spartiella* Schr. '81; *Brachmia rufescens* Haw. '81, *Eupoecilia angustana* Hübn. '77; *Cochylis pallidana* Zell. larvae '81; *Archips podana* Scop. '77; *Clepsis consimilana* Hübn. '77; *Bactra lancealana* Hübn. '81; *Epinotia tenerana* D. & S. '77; *Epiblema roborana* D. & S. '81; *E. scutulana* D. & S. '77; and *Cydia splendana* Hübn. '77.

References

- Agassiz, D. J. L., 1977, Lepidoptera in the South of Ireland, *Ent. Rec.*, 89: 73f.
 Beirne, B. P., 1941. A List of the Microlepidoptera of Ireland. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, XLVII, pp. 53-147.
 Bradley, J. D. and Pelham-Clinton, E. C., 1967. The Lepidoptera of the Burren, Co. Clare, W. Ireland, *Ent. Gazette* 18: 115-153.

ZYGAENA LOTI SCOTICA ROWLAND-BROWN ON MULL, 1981. — On 20th June, 1981, I revisited a locality for *Zygaena loti scotica* on the west coast of the Isle of Mull to which I had not been since the mid-1960s, when I paid three visits. On going to the chief haunt I found to my dismay that the areas of the hillside which were still free from bracken in the 1960s had been completely invaded by this tiresome fern and the flowery areas had completely disappeared. I realised this danger of course, but had hoped that the rock was too near the surface in the flowery areas for bracken to encroach any further. *Z. purpuralis caledonensis* Reiss and *Z. filipendulae* L. were also present in the 1960s. Neither of them could exist there now. I knew of a flowery bank not far away so I made for this spot, and to my great relief I found *Z. loti scotica* flying in good numbers. Their favourite flower was undoubtedly the Fragrant Orchid, *Gymnademia conopsea* on which I was able to photograph the moth. No other burnets were there — too early no doubt — and the only other lepidoptera seen were a few *Polyommatus icarus* Rott. and *Odezia atrata* L. I went again to the site on 27th June on our return from spending a week on Iona, but all the burnets had gone. The area is very small, and bracken is threatening here too. The slope is steep and the rock is certainly very near the surface; but how long can this tiny colony last? — Rev. J. H. VINE HALL, "Rivendell", 3 The Green, Melmerby, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1HG.